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**EPA STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH
INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS FOR COMPLETING
MAINSTEM COLUMBIA RIVER AND SNAKE RIVER TMDLS**

- I. **Purpose of the Strategy** - This strategy describes EPA's strategy for consultation and coordination with Indian Tribal Governments on the EPA actions to be taken on the Mainstem Columbia/Snake River TMDL. As outlined in the July 2001, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency- Region 10 Tribal Consultation Framework (attached), EPA is committed to consult with federally recognized tribal governments in a manner respectful of tribal sovereignty and culture.
- II. **The Columbia/Snake River Mainstem TMDLs** - EPA Region 10 is working with the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, in coordination with the 14 Columbia Basin Tribes to develop Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDLs for dissolved gas and water temperature to meet state and tribal water quality standards. These Total Maximum Daily Loads will focus solely on loading allocations for dissolved gas and water temperature. Implementation activities to improve water quality are not within the scope of EPA's responsibilities in this TMDL effort.
 - A. **EPA Temperature TMDL for Washington and Oregon and Tribal Waters** At the request of the states of Oregon and Washington, EPA will be doing the technical analysis and issuing temperature TMDLs for the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem in Oregon and Washington. EPA will be doing the technical analysis and issuing temperature TMDLs for Indian reservation waters in the Upper Columbia, including Lake Roosevelt.
 - B. **Idaho Temperature TMDL** - For the portion of the Snake River Mainstem in Idaho, EPA will be doing the technical analysis for the Temperature TMDL that will be issued by Idaho and submitted to EPA for approval.
 - C. **Oregon/Washington Lower Columbia Total Dissolved Gas TMDL** - EPA will be taking action to approve or disapprove the Lower Columbia Total Dissolved Gas TMDLs which will be issued by Oregon and Washington. The geographic scope is from the Pacific Ocean to the confluence with the Snake River.
 - D. **Washington Total Dissolved Gas TMDL** EPA also will be taking action to approve or disapprove the Lower Snake River Mainstem and Mid-Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDLs that will prepared by the state of Washington.
 - E. **EPA Total Dissolved Gas TMDL for Colville and Spokane Reservations** - EPA will be doing the technical analysis and issuing the Total Dissolved Gas TMDL for Indian reservation waters in the Upper Columbia, including Lake Roosevelt.

III. **Other EPA Activities in the Columbia/Snake River System** - EPA is addressing Columbia and Snake River water quality improvement implementation activities in other policy forums. For the mainstem Columbia/Snake River, EPA is engaged with the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) action agencies - the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation, in the development of a Columbia River Water Quality Plan. The Water Quality Plan was called for in the 2000 FCRPS Biological Opinion in Appendix B to address water quality actions needed for the Columbia but were considered outside the boundaries of species recovery. EPA is participating in other regional forums including the Federal Regional Executives, the NMFS Implementation Forum, and the Transboundary Gas Group to provide representation on Clean Water Act policy and technical decisions for the Columbia River.

IV. **Affected Tribal Governments** The following 14 Columbia Basin tribal governments are considered affected by the mainstem Columbia/Snake River TMDL:

Burns Paiute Tribe of the Burns Paiute Indian Colony of Oregon
Coeur d'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Reservation, Idaho
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Montana
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Washington
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada
Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation, Washington

V. **General Approaches for Consultation and Coordination**

- A. Formal Government-to-Government Consultation with Tribal Governments - The Tribe may request formal consultation which may be conducted by the Regional Administrator or his designee.
- B. Coordination With Tribes, Their Staffs, and Regional Tribal Groups (CRITFC, UCUT, and Snake River Tribes - Monthly meetings are being conducted with EPA, state and tribal staff to discuss policy and technical decisions. In addition, EPA representatives are available to meet with tribal staff and policy representatives to discuss technical and policy issues.
- C. Coordination with States, Other Federal Agencies, and EPA - EPA and the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho signed a Memorandum of Agreement to define roles and responsibilities for the development of the Mainstem TMDLs. For approximately one year, EPA has been coordinating monthly meetings between the states, tribal staff and other interested entities to coordinate TMDL development.
- D. Funding -Funding for individual tribal consultation and coordination is not available. However, EPA has provided a small grant to the National Fish and

Wildlife Foundation to help support tribal coordination and consultation. This grant supported a meeting held on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in September 2001 which provided a forum to discuss the TMDL efforts and tribal issues. Other forums for tribal staff and tribal discussions are being planned right now. EPA is pursuing additional funding to support tribal consultation and coordination.

- E. Issue Resolution - EPA will work with tribal governments to develop a consensus decisions before a final EPA decision is made. The EPA action/decision for these TMDLs is the development and issuance of the loading allocation for the temperature TMDL; for tribal waters, the development and issuance of the loading allocation for the gas TMDL; and the approval of the loading allocation for the state developed gas TMDLs.

VI. **Agency Contacts and Information Sources**

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